Foodgrain production

27. SHRIMATl SHOBHANA BHART1A:
SHRl VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council has submitted a report to the Prime Minister pointing out that per capita foodgrain production has reached the levels of 1970s and has raised concern for food security;

(b) whether in the report, it has been pointed that in the last decade there has been a sharp deceleration in Indian agriculture with the growth rate in the sector slipping from 3.62 per cent during 1984 to 1995-96 to less than 2 per cent in the period 1995-96 to 2004-05: and

(c) if so. what steps Government propose to take to meet the food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In the 53rd meeting of National Development Council (NDC) held on 29th May. 2007, the Prime Minister in his address has referred to the circulation of the report of NDC's sub-committee on Agriculture and Related Issues. He also mentioned directing the Planning Commission to come out with proposals and plan.

The Planning Commission in its Agriculture Strategy for the Eleventh Plan expressed concerns on food security due to per capita foodgrains production reaching the 1970s level and the deceleration in Indian agriculture. It, however, indicates that this has been offset to some extent by increase in per capita availability of other food products and also recognizes existence of a large potential for raising output with effective dissemination of technology.

The NDC in the said meeting has reaffirmed its commitment to achieve four per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan. The Government has announced a Food Security Mission covering wheat, rice and pulses.

Food security

28. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food security is coming under renewed strain with growing shortfalls in foodgrains and vegetables:

(b) if so, the details of production and requirement of foodgrains during the last two years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that private companies have started to purchase foodgrains directly from the farmers at a much higher than the rate fixed by Government and if so, how much purchase these companies have made, so far, and at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) India's food security system is acknowledged to be one of the largest in the world. Total foodgrains production in the country increased from 208.60 million tonnes in 2005-06 to 216.13 million tonnes (Fourth Advance Estimates) in 2006-07. As per latest data, production of vegetables has increased from 101.43 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 108.21 million tonnes in 2005-06.